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strange that no fighter of his day, nor any of those who have come after him, has been such a public idol.

The sporting spirit of the days when Sullivan was the mightiest exponent of the art of fist-fighting seems to have departed. It has left in its place a commercialism which is as unfeeling and destructive as it is unwarranted. There should be a limit to the demands of the boxers of the present day or of those who fatten on their efforts.

Rush It!

The Ashurst resolution submits to the States a constitutional amendment shortening the period during which the dead hand rules the American Republic.

While the general purpose of this measure is the same as that of the resolution already introduced in the House by Representative McARTHUR of Oregon, the chronology differs slightly from that of the other measure. The McArthur resolution would advance from March 4 to the second Monday in the preceding December the inauguration of the President elected in November and also the opening of the first regular session of a Congress chosen in any November.

The difference is non-essential and may be reconciled readily during the legislative process of one or the other of the resolutions. The main thing is that the archaic conditions of stage coach and saddle horse travel over bad roads shall no longer determine the lapse of time between the lighting of the ballot box and the thunder at the seat of government.

We hope this reasonable and necessary measure of electoral reform will be urged with all possible speed. Time New York Herald is impressed with the importance of the change. We do not see how any fellow citizen of common sense can regard with complacency the present ridiculous and perilous system of delay. Nowhere else on the civilized earth where representative government obtains, so far as we are informed, certainly nowhere among the States of the Union which elect Governors and Legislatures in November and swear them into office two months later, is the mandate of the people as rendered at the polls suffered to chill into coldness and almost to fade into oblivion before it has the chance to assert itself in practical effect.

Senator ASHURST is a Democrat. Representative McARTHUR is a Republican. It is an auspicious circumstance that a reform so sensible, so imperatively required for the future interests of the nation, should be recognized at the beginning as entirely apart from partisan politics.

There is no reason why there should not be in Congress a prompt agreement as to the details of the constitutional amendment needed to eliminate this glaring absurdity in our system or why the submitting resolution should not go to the States marked "Rush" for ratification.

First Rails on the Equator.

The United States Consul at Nairobi, British East Africa, reported some time ago that the British Government had authorized the building of extensions of the Uganda Railway. The report was wholly commercial and set forth a probable demand for American rails and iron and steel for the great number of bridges which would be required. Recent developments, however, add a new interest to the project in that work has begun on the road and that the route decided upon will make it the first railway to be built across the equator.

This distinction will be very narrowly won if one or two other railways in equatorial regions are taken into consideration. Ecuador's one long railway runs from Guayaquil on the Pacific coast to Quito, the capital. As this city is about fifteen miles south of the equator the railway falls short by that distance of reaching the line. Another small railroad from the north Ecuadorian coast has its southern terminus at Ibarra, which is about the same distance north of the equator that Quito is south of it. These are the only South American railways which might be considered in any way rivals of the new Uganda road. In Sumatra a railway runs from Padang, seventy-five miles south of the equator, in a northeasterly direction to the coal field of the Ombilin region and Lake Singkara, but it does not reach the equator by at least ten miles. The shorter rail lines in other parts of Sumatra are mostly in the northern part of the island.

The Uganda Railway will form an extension of the railroad built through British East Africa, or, as it is to be called in the future, the Colony of Kenya, from Mombassa, on the coast of the Indian Ocean, to Nakuru, on the northern frontier. The original design of the British East African railway was to tap the rich resources of the Uganda region, but from political reasons the road halted at Nakuru and a spur was built westward on a line parallel to the equator, terminating at a port on the Victoria Nyanza.

The extension will be from Nakuru in a northwesterly direction and the equator will be crossed at a point about ten miles north of this town. The work will be done under much more favorable conditions than might be expected in an equatorial land. The country is a vast upland region with a pleasant and agreeable temperature. Mount Kenya, the highest of East Africa's peaks, is not far distant and its foothills extend to the

line of the railway, while further to the north the route passes over the Gishu plateau or highlands.

The road will undoubtedly be a part of the Cape to Cairo railway project, which has been revived since the war and which gives a fair promise of being carried to completion. Uganda is about midway between the railroads which have been finished northward from Cape Town and southward from the Nile valley. The new railway will thus furnish a means of supply for the builders of the missing links and it will ultimately become one of the principal connecting roads between the great north and south lines and the coast.

Many plans have already been proposed for celebrating this first railroad crossing of the equator. One is the reservation of twenty-five acres on each side of the line by the Government for the establishment of a sanatorium for the Kenya Colony soldier settlers. If another plan, which is apparently much favored, is carried out the ceremony of crossing the line by rail will materially differ from crossing the line by ship.

This proposal is that every passenger train shall halt on the equator for two minutes in memory of the "Glorious Dead" of the world war. It is one of the paradoxes of the law that in this State a prison sentence longer than life imprisonment can be given. Because "life imprisonment" may mean incarceration for only twelve years, Judge McINTYRE very properly pronounced upon the Hotel Astor burglar HAWTHORNE, an indeterminate sentence of from thirty to sixty years in Sing Sing.

Buried Alive.

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If Hawthorne's fate does not strike terror to the hearts of the rampant criminals, nothing will. His sentence means that if he ever leaves prison, which is unlikely, he will be an old man, well beyond pleasure and ambition. Meanwhile he will have been entombed, a numbered thing in a prison uniform.

All that Hawthorne stood to win by his daring crime was what he could have saved in six months from his earnings at almost any trade. He preferred to risk what to most men is almost as precious as life—liberty. In this case life and liberty are almost synonymous. He will be deprived of liberty, and death will be only deferred.

If the criminal could and would think he would laugh at the idea of staying a criminal when an honest life is so soft.

New York's Pilgrim Exhibition.

The New York Public Library has performed a useful service in arranging an exhibition of books relating to the Mayflower Pilgrims as its contribution to the tercentenary celebration. The collection is grouped so that the main facts of Pilgrim history are presented in logical fashion and the founders of the Plymouth Colony in New England are seen in proper perspective.

The exhibit of earliest date is a manuscript of WYCLIFFE'S New Testament, written about 1380, which is included in the collection as related to the Puritan reformation out of which the Pilgrims sprang, and along with it are shown publications connected with the Martin Marprelate controversy and other background factors of Pilgrim history.

The stay of the Pilgrims in England and Holland is covered by books, manuscripts, official records, a piece of the wooden railing of the town hall at Boston, Lincolnshire, where Elder WILLIAM BROWSTER and Governor WILLIAM BRADFORD were tried in 1609, and original copies of books printed by BROWSTER in his shop at Leyden.

Interesting and significant evidences of the importance of the printing press among the Pilgrims as well as among the Puritans. Other books, maps, pictures and similar objects cover the history of the voyage of the Pilgrims and their settlement in America.

The account of the collection prepared by VIRGINIA PALFREY, chief of the American history division of the Public Library, reminds us that the only undisputed portrait of a Mayflower Pilgrim is the painting made in 1651 in England of Governor EDWARD STANISLAW appearing in books is not authentic. No original picture or model of the Mayflower is known. But no creation on canvas or in marble is needed to visualize the little band of obscure persons whose existence as a separate body politic lasted only seventy years, but who nevertheless were able to make a profound and lasting impression on the thought of mankind and to exert a powerful influence on the history of this nation.

More human, more lifelike than portraits made with brush or chisel are the portraits of these strong, wise men and women which are drawn by their own works, by monuments and relics like those exhibited at the Public Library, by the orations, the books, the works of art they inspired.

For Americans and those intending to become Americans a good place to visit is the main exhibition room of the Public Library. The collection remains on view until March.

The Fur Supply Diminishing.

The supply of furs is waning, according to an address made by NEB DEARBORN of the Bureau of Biological Survey before the American Society of Mammalogists and printed in a pamphlet issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. As a result of his inquiries Mr. DEARBORN has come to the following conclusions:

In order to make fur bearing animals a constant source of profit it is necessary to adopt and to enforce stringent protective laws for their conservation. Such laws should be uniform in States having similar climatic conditions. The open season should be short and limited within the period when skins are prime. The use of poison, smoke, gas or fumes in taking fur bearing animals should be prohibited. Trappers should be licensed at a nominal fee and required to report the number and value of their catch at the end of every trapping season, this information to be published annually for the enlightenment of the public.

For upward of 800 years America furnished raw furs which were dressed and manufactured in Europe, many of them to be returned to this country for final use. Since August 1, 1914, the centre of the world's fur trade has been transferred from Europe to the United States. This year saw the crest of high prices reached in auction sales held in America.

A concrete example of the rise in fur prices is afforded by the actual record of one man's fur lined overcoat. This coat, lined with mink, cost \$500 in 1913. After wearing the coat two years the owner sold the mink lining for \$1,000 and replaced it with nutria at a cost of \$150. Two years later, in 1917, he had the nutria lining removed and sold it for \$250. A muskrat lining was then put in at a cost of \$55 which in 1919 was in turn removed and sold for \$900. The original purchaser still has the shell of the coat.

Individuals who have made a study of the subject believe that unless fur bearing animals are rigidly conserved the time is not far away when many of the more valuable species will be exterminated and furs will be worn only by the very rich.

It is suggested that the State game commissions and State agricultural experiment stations promote the raising of fur bearers, especially foxes, skunks and muskrats, which are being propagated with success. To show the value of one of these species it may be said that a year's catch of skunks in New York is worth \$1,000,000.

Mr. DEARBORN points out that skunks are the best wild animal friends the farmer has, and almost any farmer might have two or three dozen skunks at work for him destroying mice, grasshoppers, crickets and white grubs, and yielding from \$50 to \$100 worth of fur a year, if he would but respect their dens, keep his poultry in skunk proof yards and be tactful when he meets them in the evening.

War Fuel Offered.

Those Who Are Without Coal.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: When the armistice was signed the Government had on hand about 500 tons of wood blocks and 600 tons of peach stones which were intended for the manufacture of charcoal for gas masks. These have been purchased by one of our clients and placed in our hands for distribution to relieve the present fuel stringency.

We are offering these at \$1 a ton for the peach stones and \$2 a ton for the wood blocks, which are cut in three inch lengths, ranging in diameter from one-half to three inches, and are maple, beech and birch. Both the peach stones and the wood blocks make excellent fuel, having about 80 per cent. of the heating value of coal. These prices constitute buyers taking delivery at the gas plant at Astoria and providing their own transportation and in units of not less than five tons.

Checks and money orders in amounts of not less than \$5 may be sent to us and on receipt of same we will deliver orders enabling the purchasers to call and get the fuel. We are not retail dealers and have no means of delivering this fuel.

NEW YORK COAL EXCHANGE.  
NEW YORK, December 24.

The Peace of Allah.

A Buyer of Christmas Cards Puzzled by a Fancy Popular This Year.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I entered an uptown church book store the other day in search of Christmas cards, and selected a dainty one in parchment, representing, as supposed, the three kings of the East, from the East, on their camels.

On closer inspection, however, I saw it represented an Arab only, reclining beside his camel, and on turning the page, to read the verse within, I was greeted by the words: "May the peace of Allah be with thee." Knowing what the peace of Allah has meant to thousands of slaughtered Armenians and their starving children, I wondered whether, apart from all question as to religious propriety, such were really the peace which churchly disposed Americans wished for their dear ones.

We are making, as a people, great efforts to save a permanent peace from the hideous results of this same peace, yet the saleswoman assured me she had sold hundreds of these Allah cards as Christmas tokens. What is the reason of their popularity? E. R. W.  
NEW BRITCHTON, December 24.

Proctor Knott's Way.

An Amendment to a Law to Put Down Gunmen in Kentucky.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Accounts of crime conditions existing here and Mayor Hylan's suggestion as to citizens arming for protection suggest the following incident:

During the time that the late Proctor Knott was Governor of Kentucky lawlessness in certain parts of that State proved to be a constant menace. The shooting and killing of peaceable law-abiding citizens was of almost daily occurrence. The gunman held full sway. A legislator called upon the Governor to submit the draft of a bill making the carrying of sidearms a felony. Governor Knott, after reading the proposed bill, remarked:

"The bill is all right if you will change it and make it a felony for any man who is caught without sidearms. This measure, I think, will at least make the gunman more careful and there will be, no doubt, less shooting when every man is prepared." JAMES MADISON.  
NEW YORK, December 24.

Christmas Morning.

Pray let us go back to Toyland,  
Where all our dreams came true—  
Jovial, generous boyland,  
Where life and love were new.

Christmas trees and crandling snow—  
Let the winds blow, high or low;  
There was warmth in every heart—  
Sad those dear days must depart.

Hook and ladder, train of cars—  
Eyes that shone like dancing stars,  
Down the stairs we went at dawn—  
We heard the sleigh bells cross the lawn.

Oh, could we go back to Toyland,  
Where fairy tales were true—  
Thrilling, triumphant boyland,  
Where life and love were new.

Brandy for a Sick Man.

Anonymous Confession of a Deliberate Violation of the Law.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I am a criminal as yet undetected. For that reason I can give only an anonymous vouch to the genuineness of the following extract from a letter I have just received. I think it bears internal evidence of its truth.

Its writer is a very dear friend of my youth and on his ability to work depends the present and the future of his growing family. His present condition is due to overexertion from the army in France. He is an educated and experienced physician with a thorough knowledge of the value and effects of strychnine, digitalis and other medical stimulants. Here is what he says:

[This illness] knocked me out so suddenly, just when I was in highest hopes, that in a bad way but putting up a fight with a wonderful care. My heart is not responding well, but hope to better it. I fear only that it may be a longer fight than I thought.

I can get the old pump a tap ahead again. We have a comfortable little bungalow here, more expensive than I wish, but that is the penalty for the best climate in the world. I should get out quickly in cold, so I'll have to do the best I can.

I am casting the curse of prohibition, which would be a real hardship in cases like mine. I need the liquor, but I won't touch bootleg and the drug store stuff isn't much safer. It is inconceivable that a bunch of fanatics could have done this to me. No remarkable case, but one which must be duplicated over and over again to the suffering of very many innocent persons among the invalids and their families.

From a scant store of very good brandy, legally laid away for emergencies, I have made a concocted shipment to my friend in hope that it will reach him safely and help restore him to usefulness and the support of his family. For that I am a criminal. I hope I don't get caught and that I may remain.

AN UNDETECTED CRIMINAL.  
NEW YORK, December 24.

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Gay Christmas for Theatrical Folk

Novel Parties to Be Held Back of Stage at Several Playhouses—Trees Loaded With Presents.

It's a safe wager that to-day both theatrical managers and players are happy. The managers are pleased because last night's big business marked the beginning of the tidal wave of patronage sweeping over the theatre during the holidays. The actors were happy because, while they would be deprived of many of the festivities of the season because of the regular performances as well as the special matinees which almost every production will give next week, they were enabled to have Christmas celebrations back-stage last night and will have more of the same to-day.

Lee Shubert said yesterday that Christmas business in Broadway will be larger than at any time since the war, most of the established successes having been sold out weeks in advance for today's performance. He ascribed the increasingly heavy attendance at the playhouses to the fact that Christmas is now being observed less in the home and more in the restaurants and hotels.

The Hippodrome, which has come to be so much a part of New York's theatrical life, naturally made a big fuss over Yuletide. Outside on the marquee a huge Christmas tree, specially brought from the Maine woods, was illuminated by colored electric lights and to number 1,700. Inside was placed another big fir on the stage ready to be used at noon to-day for a party for the children of the performers.

Definite acceptance of invitations has been received from more than 150 children, and it is expected that at least 200 will gather around the tree on the Hippodrome stage to-day.

The party will take place in the setting of the Toyland scene which begins the second act of "Good Times," the midst of huge dolls and mechanical toys used in this scene. Here Fritz Gunther has set up one of the Christmas trees he brought to New York from the Maine woods. Electricians have covered it with hundreds of electric lights of all colors and Mr. Dillingham has hung it with treats of candy and fruit for the children.

Mr. Burnside's children, Katherine, "Snookie" and "Betty" will attend. So will Miss Leard Andrews, the 3-year-old daughter of Miss Belle Story, the Hippodrome prima donna, who in private life is Mrs. E. J. Andrews, and "Poodles" Hanneford, the equestrian clown, will bring his daughter and Joseph Parsons will bring his three children. The other Hippodrome players will do likewise, and these children will be no more welcome than will the children of members of the ensemble of the men and women who, unseen by the audience, have covered the important parts to each performance.

And Abraham Ben Schramm, acrobat from Tangiers, will bring his children, Hassan and Sandia, to enjoy their first Christmas celebration.

The Christmas celebration for the children of the Hippodrome is an effort to permit parents and children to have a time together on Christmas Day, the very nature of the theatre enterprise making it necessary for those engaged in it to be at their usual tasks long other people are celebrating.

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Our Friends and Foes.

Irish and Scotch in the War of the American Revolution.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: William Harris has a difficult task on his hands in disputing recent statements concerning the Scotch in the War of the Revolution, but he does not help his case by his references to the part taken by the Irish.

While he is correct in saying that it is not true that "one-half the American army were Irishmen," the fact that the Irish proportion of the Continental army and navy, and of the militia regiments raised in the different Colonies, constituted 35 per cent. of the whole has been proved beyond any question of doubt by Michael J. O'Brien in his great book "A Hidden Phase of American History."

O'Brien has taken this question entirely out of the realm of controversy. He has furnished the figures from the muster rolls and enlistment papers, and shows the percentages of Irish immigrants and their American born sons in the various regiments, and no mere theories or guesswork on the part of those unacquainted with the facts can shake his inevitable conclusions. Any one, of whatever race, who loves a brilliant argument deftly driven home will rejoice in the reading of this book.

Mr. Harris refers to "two new Irish regiments" under Lord Rawdon, but, as a matter of fact, these bodies of men were a mere handful and had no existence as regiments, and nothing better illustrates that point than the letter from General Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, the English Secretary of War, in October, 1778, showing that so many of the "Roman Catholic Volunteers" had "deserted to the rebels" that the corps had then dwindled to "near eighty men." Rawdon's "Volunteers of Ireland" at no time numbered more than 253 men, and when they marched through South Carolina in the summer of 1781 he lost "more than half his effectives through desertion," his "corps" was "reduced to a mere fragment," and Rawdon went home to England "a broken man."

Mr. Harris mentions one officer named O'Hara serving with the enemy, but if he will consult "A Hidden Phase of American History" he will find a list of nearly 1,500 officers of the patriot army who served with the British.

From the Kingston (Ont.) Press.  
We should still be thankful for those two patrons of the street cars, the girl who smiles going to